

## **MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**

Holiday Inn West Conference Center

7501 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

August 17, 2007

### **Minutes**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Ramesh Verma, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Albert Lewis and Amne Talab

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None

#### **OSA STAF PRESENT**

Bonnie Graham, Cindy Albrecht, Steve Betterly, Janis Bowlin, Sharon Gire, Sherri King, Laura McMurtry, Sarah Slocum, and Holliace Spencer

#### **VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT**

Tina Abbate Marzolf, Bob Brown, Ginney Wood-Bailey, Sherry Gast, Kishori Gandhi, Donna Hobart, Monique James, Bruce King, Jim McGuire, Tammy Pennington, Zane Rybkowski, Steve Todd, and Craig Zeese

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Bieber made the motion to approve today's agenda. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Pawelski made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2007, meeting. Commissioner Bieber seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### **INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None

#### **OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gire welcomed everyone, including a number of representatives from the AAA's. Director Gire shared the following:

#### **UDATES:**

OSA, Consumers Energy and the Michigan State Fair will again present the Senior Citizen of the Year awards on Seniors Day at the State Fair in Detroit. Director Gire and Commissioner Kennedy will be presenting the awards on Monday, August 27. Director Gire thanked Commissioner Wright for representing the Commission on the judge's panel.

Director Gire stated she was invited to participate as one of five members on a panel to provide information and input to Adult Well-Being in Detroit as they work to develop a new strategic plan.

Director Gire will be attending a ground breaking ceremony in Alpena next week for a new retirement community to be named Alpena Village.

Director Gire read a message from the Michigan Association of Broadcasting stating that as of February 17, 2009 non-digital televisions will no longer work unless owners have cable or satellite service or purchase a converter box. This may be a serious issue for older adults as many rely on television for information and do not have the resources to purchase a new television or cable/satellite service. Director Gire will forward this information to Commissioners so they may forward it on to others.

Director Gire stated that OSA is continuing work to develop a grant application for the Nursing Home Diversion Program Request for Proposal recently issued by the Administration on Aging (AoA). The grant will provide flexible service options for non Medicaid eligible older adults at risk of nursing home placement. To accomplish the grant goals OSA is working collaboratively with the Office of Long Term Care Support and Services, the area agencies on aging, and the State Medicaid office. Three area agencies were selected through a two level review process of concept papers submitted by interested AAAs. The AAAs selected include Area Agency on Aging 1-B, Tri-County Office on Aging (PSA 6), and Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc. (PSA 8). The U.P. AAA (UPCAP Services) was also as to participate in the grant as a mentor for other area agencies. If awarded the grant funding will be used to re-engineer state policies, standards and protocols for AAAs, enhance the AIS and financial reporting systems to accommodate self-determination, provide training, and support shared learning statewide.

Director Gire requested that the Commission consider the submission of a letter to AoA in support of OSA's Nursing Home Diversion Program proposal. A motion to support was made by Commissioner Verma and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote. OSA staff will develop a draft letter containing the specifics of the grant for Commission review and approval.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval to Amend the FY 2007 Ombudsman Grant to U.P. Area Agency on Aging (Region11)**

Sarah Slocum, State Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman, requested approval of an amendment to the FY 2007 Ombudsman Grant awarded to the U.P. Area Agency on Aging, UPCAP Services. The amendment will increase the FY 2007 grant from the previously approved \$11,629 to \$16,629. Ms. Slocum stated the additional funds will be used to support a statewide training and volunteer recognition for LTC Ombudsman staff and volunteers in September 2007.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to approve the amendment to FY 2007 LTC Ombudsman Grant to the U.P. Area Agency on Aging, UPCAP Services and seconded by

Commissioner Bollinger. The Commission approved with a 12-0-1 vote with Commissioner Rau abstaining.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval of Distribution of Long Term Care Ombudsman Title VII/A Funding**

Sarah Slocum, State Ombudsman, requested the Commission to approve distribution of \$140,000 in federal Older Americans Act funds (Title VII/A) from the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) to the four agencies currently awarded funds to provide local LTC ombudsman services in the state. Three of these agencies are AAAs while the majority of the funding will be awarded to Citizens for Better Care, as the sub-contractor for eleven AAAs. Given final funding levels are not yet available, Ms. Slocum also requested the OSA Director be granted authority to make administrative adjustments in the approved grant levels, not to exceed five percent (5%) of the grant amount. Ms. Slocum stated the funds will be used to support ongoing local LTC ombudsman services that include: complaint intake and resolution, consumer and family support in selecting long term care options, and education outreach to residents, providers and others regarding resident's rights, abuse prevention and reporting and other related topics.

Ms. Slocum stated the Older Americans Act requires that LTC ombudsman services be provided in each Planning and Service Area (PSA). Ms. Slocum also stated the funds are allocated to each PSA according to the state LTC Ombudsman funding formula.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the Distribution of Long Term Care Ombudsman Title VII/A funding and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The Commission approved with a 12-0-1 vote with Commissioner Rau abstaining.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval of FY 2008 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for Region 2 Area Agency on Aging**

Sherri King, OSA staff, introduced Ms. Ginny Wood-Bailey, Director of Region 2 Area Agency on Aging. Region 2 serves Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee counties.

Ms. King noted public hearings were held on April 17, 2007. All services to be funded comply with approved OSA AIP criteria, statewide operating standards and policies, Statement of Grant Award, and Federal Regulation 45 CFR Part 1321. A copy of the AIP was sent to each county board of commissioners in the PSA. No local governments raised any issues of concern and there are no special conditions attached to the plan.

Ms. King presented a summary of the Region 2 AIP and highlighted some of the AAA's program objectives. Ms. King noted that Region 2 has a strong health promotion and wellness component, which has increased their congregate meal counts. Ms. King also stated the Region 2 dietitian makes home visits to assist clients that have special needs and set up their meal plans. Ms. King noted that Perennial Park, a senior center in Hillsdale County, has developed a fitness center at the facility and is exploring the building of a swimming pool to assist seniors in keeping healthy.

Ms. King requested the Commission's approval of the FY 2008 AIP for Region 2 Area Agency on Aging.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the FY 2008 AIP for the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging and seconded by Commissioner Bieber. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

**Approval of FY 2008 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for Tri-County Office on Aging (TCoA) (PSA 6)**

Sherri King, OSA staff, introduced Donna Hobart from the Tri-County Office on Aging. Tri-County Office on Aging serves Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties.

Ms. King stated a public hearing was held on May 10, 2007. All services to be funded comply with approved OSA AIP criteria, statewide operating standards and policies, Statement of Grant Award, and Federal Regulation 45 CFR Part 1321. A copy of the AIP was sent to each county board of commissioners in the PSA. No local governments raised any issues of concern and there are no special conditions attached to the plan.

Ms. Kind noted that Appendix G – Request to Transfer Funds from Title III-C Congregate Nutrition to Title III-B Supportive Services requires approval by the commission. The transfer will provide for participant transportation to and from meal sites.

Ms. King highlighted several areas of the AIP stating that TCoA operates its own kitchen that provides all meals for both the congregate and home-delivered meal programs in the PSA and utilizes a large number of volunteers from local communities to deliver those meals. She also noted that TCoA works with OSA and the Department of Community Health/Chronic Disease Division to promote the Enhanced Fitness and the Matter of Balance programs. Ms. King stated that TCOA is a pioneer site for the Robert Wood Johnson “Cash and Counseling” grant and has worked with the Office of LTC Supports and Services to develop self-determination options for adults served through the MI Choice Waiver Program.

Ms. King requested Commission approval of the FY 2008 AIP for Tri-County Office on Aging.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the FY 2008 AIP for Tri-County Office on Aging and seconded by Commissioner Bieber. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed. Commissioner Gardner requested to be placed on the TCoA newsletter mailing list.

**Approval of FY 2007-09 Multi-Year Plan/2007 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for Region 3-C Branch-St. Joseph Area Agency on Aging**

Steve Betterly, OSA staff, introduced Steve Todd, Executive Director of Region 3-C Area Agency on Aging. Region 3-C serves Branch and St. Joseph counties.

Mr. Betterly presented for Commission approval the FY 2008 AIP for Region 3-C. All services to be funded comply with approved OSA AIP criteria, statewide operating standards and policies, Statement of Grant Award, and Federal Regulations 45 CFR Part 1321. A copy of the AIP was sent to each county board of commissioners in the PSA. No local governments raised any issues of concern and there are no special conditions attached to the plan. A public hearing regarding the plan was held on May 9, 2007.

Mr. Betterly stated the AIP submitted by Region 3-C AAA includes program development initiatives to promote evidence-based disease prevention activities through collaboration with local agencies. The AAA will also seek to improve access to transportation services and resources and provide support and technical assistance to local senior centers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the FY 2008 AIP for Region 3-C AAA and seconded by Commissioner Wright. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval of FY 2008 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for Valley Area Agency on Aging (PSA 5)**

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, introduced Kathryn Boles, Executive Director of Valley Area Agency on Aging (VAAA). Valley Area Agency on Aging serves the counties of Lapeer, Genesee, and Shiawassee.

Ms. McMurtry stated that public hearings were held on April 12, 19, and 13, 2007 in each of the counties served by VAAA. All services to be funded comply with approved OSA AIP criteria, statewide operating standards and policies, Statement of Grant Award, and Federal Regulations 45 CFR Part 1321. A copy of the AIP was sent to each county board of commissioners in the PSA and the City of Flint. No local governments raised any issues of concern and there are no special conditions attached to the plan.

Ms. McMurtry presented a summary of the AIP highlighting health and wellness. She stated the AAA is working with OSA as a pilot site for implementation of the AoA Evidence-Based Disease Promotion Grant and is implementing the "A Matter of Balance", program as part of that initiative. Ms. McMurtry noted VAAA also sponsors a monthly cable show called "Healthy Aging" that includes information on a number of important issues affecting older adults.

Ms. McMurtry requested Commission approval of the FY 2007 AIP for Valley Area Agency on Aging.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the FY 2008 AIP for Valley Area Agency on Aging and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval of FY 2008 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for Region 1-B Area Agency on Aging**

Janis Bowlin, OSA staff, introduced Tina Abbate Marzolf, Executive Director, and Jim McGuire, Director of Planning and Advocacy for Region 1-B AAA. Region 1-B serves the counties of Livingston, St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, Monroe, and Washtenaw.

All services to be funded comply with approved OSA AIP criteria, statewide operating standards and policies, Statement of Grant Award, and Federal Regulations 45 CFR Part 1321. A public hearing was held on June 1, 2007. A summary of the public hearing is included with the AIP. A copy of the AIP was sent to each county board of commissioners in the PSA. No local

governments raised any issues of concern and there are no special conditions attached to the plan.

Ms. Bowlin presented a summary of the AIP indicating the AAA is working with older adults with disabilities on quality of life issues such as civic engagement, elder friendly communities, and end of life issues. Ms. Bowlin stated Region 1-B also continues to work with local transit authorities to improve transportation services. Region 1-B also master trainer for evidence-based disease prevention programs and is working to promote the development of those programs regionally.

Ms. Bowlin requested Commission approval of the 2008 AIP for Region 1-B Area Agency on Aging.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pawelski to approve the FY 2008 AIP for Region 1-B Area Agency on Aging and seconded by Commissioner Verma. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed with Commissioner Wright requesting further information about the adult day care and dementia adult day care programs sponsored by the AAA. Commissioner Leung stated that he was pleased to hear many radio advertisements promoting Region 1-B AAA as a resource for older adults and caregivers. Ms. Abbate Marzolf stated the AAA receives over 70,000 calls a year with a large number of the calls generated as a result of the radio advertisements.

#### **Approval of the FY 2008 Annual Area Implementation Plan (AIP) for The Senior Alliance (Region 1-C)**

Janis Bowlin, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2008 AIP for The Senior Alliance. Ms. Bowlin introduced Bob Brown, Executive Director, Monique James, Deputy Director, and Kishori Gandhi, Finance Director. The Senior Alliance serves 34 communities in out-Wayne County.

All services to be funded comply with approved OSA AIP criteria, statewide operating standards and policies, Statement of Grant Award, and Federal Regulations 45 CFR Part 1321. Region 1-C conducted two public hearings on May 7 and 14, 2007 as part of the AIP development process. A summary of the public hearing is included as part of the plan. A copy of the AIP was sent to each county board of commissioners in the PSA. No local governments raised any issues of concern and there are no special conditions attached to the plan.

Ms. Bowlin acknowledged the efforts of The Senior Alliance to address the agency's previously identified financial concerns and the re-payment of the debt to Wayne County. She also noted the AAA has developed a video called S.A.F.E. (Stop Adult Financial Exploitation) that is used to train bank and hotel staff on how to recognize adult financial exploitation. Ms. Bowlin stated that Region 1-C, in partnership with the Downriver Community Conference, launched a new pilot transportation program this past year. The program is intended to be the "transportation provider of last resort" for older adults who need door-to-door, non-emergency medical transportation services. Ms. Bowlin noted the pilot program is time limited and will run from June 18, 2007 until September 20, 2007. Ms. James stated in the first month of the program they had 35 clients. Ms. James also announced the availability of another pilot program, "Out of Home Skilled Respite" and discussed some of the AAA's work on fall prevention, development of the evidence-based disease prevention "Matter of Balance" program, and funding-raising.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the FY 2008 AIP for The Senior Alliance and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval of FY 2008 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for Region VII Area Agency on Aging**

Jan Bowlin, OSA staff, introduced Bruce King, Executive Director, and Zane Rybkowski, Program Manager, for Region VII Area Agency on Aging. Region VII serves the counties of Gladwin, Midland, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, Tuscola, Saginaw, Clare, Isabella, and Gratiot.

All services to be funded comply with approved OSA AIP criteria, statewide operating standards and policies, Statement of Grant Award, and Federal Regulations 45 CFR Part 1321. A public hearing regarding the plan was held on May 15, 2007 and a summary of that hearing is included in the AIP. In addition, the AAA submitted a copy of the AIP to each local unit of government within the planning and service area. No local governments raised any issues of concern and there are no special conditions attached to the plan.

Ms. Bowlin announced that Mr. Rybkowski produced a video depicting an overview of Region VII and the services provided that aired on Bay 3 TV. Ms. Bowlin also noted the AAA collaborated with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan to fund a Weight Control Initiative Program in the region. The AAA also partnered with the United Way of Bay County to support an "Easy Meal" Program for the needy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the FY 2008 AIP for Region VII Area Agency on Aging and seconded by Commissioner Newport. The Commission approved with a 12-0-1 vote with Commissioner Pawelski abstaining.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Walters corrected a previous statement he made at the July Commission meeting regarding a requirement to provide skim milk at congregate meal sites. Commissioner Walters stated that whole milk may be provided with congregate meals as long as the fat content of the entire meal is kept at or below the level established by the minimum standards.

Commissioner Wilson complemented the Meals on Wheels Program. She also stated the Macomb County prosecutor has created a Senior Crime Unit, which conducted a seminar on "scams for seniors." Over 200 attended the seminar. Commissioner Wilson further noted that a seminar called "Get Connected" will be held next week in Macomb County. The seminar will cover the signs of drug abuse, alcohol abuse, depression, and dementia in older adults.

Commissioner Wright announced the resignation of Karla Fales as director of Burnham Brook Community Center.

Director Gire announced that OSA had been notified of an agreement between Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan, the State Attorney General, and the Insurance Commission regarding the proposed 50% increase in rates for the MediGap program. Director Gire stated she is pleased to report there will only be a 19% increase and acknowledged the efforts of the Commission and other advocates in efforts to keep rates affordable for older adults.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on September 21, 2007 at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, Lansing. Please note this meeting may run longer than normal given the Commission will be considering approval of the FY 2008 AAA AIPs and grant allocations.

Given there is no information yet available regarding the FY 2008 State Budget, it is uncertain if the State Advisory Council meeting will be held in October.

## **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Bieber. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12.05 p.m.